

Draft 1

Seventy-eight World Health Assembly Kingdom of Tonga Intervention

Committee B- Pillar 1: One Billion people benefiting from Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Committee B- Item 28:

Agenda Item G: *Global Action on Patient Safety (Resolution WHA72.6 (2019) and Decision WHA 74 (13) (2021)*

Thank you, Chairperson.

The Kingdom of Tonga is pleased to note the Report Document A78/34:– ***Global Action on Patient Safety (Resolution WHA72.6 (2019) and Decision WHA 74 (13) (2021).***

1. The Government and people of Tonga greatly value the support that **WHO** provides for global action to address patient safety.
2. In healthcare, keeping the people who are receiving care safe is not the responsibility of just one person, team, or department. It's also not just the responsibility of those delivering the care—it falls on all of us.
3. Whether we're in leadership, at the point-of-care, or supporting the care process behind the scenes, we have a role to play in ensuring that the people being cared for in your organisation are safe.
4. Although we have some systems in place, we continue to receive customer complaints about our health system and/or, as you all well know, these also get posted on social media.
5. This is the nature of the world we live in, but we have to reflect as a team of care givers and we have to continually review our system of clinical governance and patient safety, so our people have more trust and faith in the services we provide, and we need to continuously work to ensure those services are safe.
6. Some of our achievements to date include;
 - a. Establishment of a national Surgical, Obstetrics and Anaesthetic Plan.
 - b. The formation of a Clinical Governance committee.
 - c. We have a full-time Infection, Prevention and Control nursing position and provided IPC on-line training to seven nurses in 2024.

- d. We have activated an incident reporting system, but this needs more work to gain staff trust to use it for quality improvement purposes only, not use it as a performance related tool.
 - e. We have recently provided the Australasian Institute of Clinical Governance Certificate level training for 20 doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.
7. Challenges include:
- a. Limited allocation of budget, so dependent on development partners to fund training;
 - b. No legal protection for reporting clinical incidents;
 - c. Lack of standard procedures to guide practice; and
 - d. Unsatisfactory patient and family engagement and open disclosure
8. Moving forward we plan to:
- a. Develop a clinical governance framework for Tonga, that includes a patient safety plan;
 - b. Convene a Steering Committee to implement the national Surgical, Obstetrics and Anaesthetic Plan; and
 - c. Engage in the Global Patient Safety Survey as a form of a situation analysis.
9. To achieve our clinical governance and patient safety plans, Tonga requires the on-going support from **WHO**, development partners and professional colleges to:
- a. Improve Health Systems Strengthening;
 - b. Build management capacity and capability among middle managers;
 - c. Provide specialist health services, not available in Tonga;
 - d. Build fit for purpose health facilities; and
 - e. Have technologies and bio-medical equipment and consumables available to enable safe practice.

MALO 'AUPITO AND THANK YOU

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